

TEN POINTS CLEAR

Hendon 2
Wycombe Wanderers 0

(Attendance 1,260)

HENDON reached the half-way stage of their Isthmian League programme with a sparkling 2-0 win over champions Wycombe Wanderers to pull off their fifth double. With 21 of the scheduled 42 games completed, they are well ahead of the rest of the field, with a ten-point lead over nearest rivals Walthamstow Avenue, writes **Fred Harris**.

Hendon rewarded their best support so far of the season—1,260—with some of their most attractive football. This was Hendon almost at their best—and they were still without regular right-back Tony Jennings. But Jennings is expected to be fit to take on Clapton at Clarendon Road tomorrow (Saturday). This means that Walter Koller, the Swiss-born bundle of energy who had a cracking game, could find himself substitute.

Not missed

Rested from the side was Freddy Pudney, who recently returned to the club from Hornchurch. But he was never missed.

It has always been said that Hendon play better against footballing sides. And so it proved. Hendon moved the ball with precision, brushed aside some robust tackles, and successfully rode an ominous undercurrent which could have exploded had retaliatory action been taken just before the interval when Tony Bass was laid out in his own area.

Bass alleged afterwards that he had been punched, and he backed up his argument by displaying a bruised, but lip.

Bass had his revenge with Hendon's second goal soon after the restart and, master in the air, he made it a night of misery for Wycombe skipper and centre-half John Delaney. Hampered by an early knock, Delaney limped off in the 68th minute, to be replaced by Ian Rundle.

Johnny Baker, restored to the Hendon attack after missing two games, was in splendid form, and the three-pronged attack was completed by Jimmy Wilsonham, who coolly put Hendon ahead after 13 minutes.

A free-kick by Bobby Childs was headed down by Bass, and Wilsonham, who had drifted into an open space, was able to pick his spot.

The Wycombe defence, strengthened by the signing of former Hendon international Mickey Cooper, who was cleared only an hour before kick-off, had flaws in midfield which neither Cooper nor Derek Gamblin, the old England campaigner, who also

saw service with Hendon, were able to effectively cover.

The solution for Wycombe might have been provided by Keith Jameson, a member of Hendon's Amateur Cup-winning team last season. But he failed a pre-match fitness test.

Shared

Peter Deadman was again a magnificent deputy for the absent Jennings in the powerful Hendon defence, but the honours were shared equally by Phil Fry, Gary Hand, the dynamic Rod Haider and Alan Phillips, with Bobby Childs providing the link-up with the forwards.

Another Childs free kick, a minute into the second half, almost led to a second goal for Hendon. The ball rebounded off a defender to Deadman, whose shot crashed against a post and bounced clear.

Childs, however, did have a hand in the second goal which came three minutes later. His accurate corner from the right, Hendon's third of the match, found the head of Bass, who nodded the ball wide of goalkeeper John Maskell. The ball might have brushed a defender as it crossed the line.

Larry Pritchard, Wycombe's international star, tried to put the visitors back into the game. He moved menacingly forward to pick up a loose ball, but his tremendous drive was turned over the bar by John Swannell.

It was Wilsonham who set the seal on a fine match with a powerful angled shot which flashed across the Wycombe goal just before the end.

Elusive

Haider, whose non-stop running made him an elusive target to mark, had Maskell diving to save a sharp effort. It was Haider who later made another opening for Wilsonham, whose shot was scrambled away with some difficulty by the Wycombe goalkeeper. Then Childs followed a lightning break, only to see his fierce, rising shot sail over the bar.

"What a wonderful performance. How can you possibly single out only one man for praises," said acting manager Bill Fisher. "They all deserve it. Each and every one of them." I heartily agree.

Hendon: J. Swannell, P. Deadman, G. Hand, P. Fry, A. Phillips, R. Haider, R. Childs, J. Wilsonham, A. Bass, J. Baker, W. Koller. Substitute: I. Denhold.
Wycombe Wanderers: I. Maskell, M. Cooper, D. Gamblin, G. Olsen, J. Delaney, A. Gane, M. Hollifield, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, A. Amos, J. Hutchinson. Substitute: I. Rundle.

Leading positions are:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hendon	21	18	3	0	47	7	39
Walthamstow Avenue	22	11	7	4	35	17	29
Walton and Hersham	18	12	3	3	26	11	27
Enfield	20	11	5	4	45	23	27
Wycombe Wanderers	19	11	2	6	32	15	24
Kingstonian	19	10	4	5	24	23	24
Bishop's Cleeve	18	8	3	7	23	13	23